



HALMATURUS THETIDIS, *F. Cuv et Geoff.*

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Pademelon Wallaby.

HEAD AND FORE PARTS, OF THE SIZE OF NATURE.

THE accompanying life-sized head represents the common Pademelon of the colonists, a shy and timid creature, which bounds away on the least disturbance. It runs in the same brushes with the *H. Ualabatus* and *H. Parma*; and every extensive district of this kind, from Illawarra to the Clarence, was tenanted by great numbers of it at the period of my visit to New South Wales. Its flesh is good, and is frequently eaten by the settlers and the aborigines. Considerable difference occurs in the colouring of this animal,—specimens obtained in one locality having the red hue of the neck predominating over the brown, while in those from another the contrary is the case.

The front figure represents a moderate-sized adult male, of the size of life, while the distant figure of the female is a trifle less. A more lengthened description, and reduced figures of the entire animal, will be found on the next Plate and page.



HALMATURUS THETIDIS, F. Cuv. & Geoff.

Pademelon Wallaby.

Halmaturus Thetidis, F. Cuv. et Geoff. Mamm., tab. 56.—F. Cuv. Less. Zool. de M. Bougainville's Journ. de la Navig. autour du Monde de la Frigate Thetis, &c., tom. ii. p. 305. pl. 37.—Gould, Mon. of Macropodidæ, pl. .
——— *nuchalis*, Wagn. in Schreb. Saug. Suppl., part 111–112. p. 128 (Waterhouse).
Macropus (Halmaturus) Thetidis, Waterh. Nat. Hist. of Mamm., vol. i. p. 144.
Pademelon of the colonists of New South Wales.

OF the smaller species of Wallaby inhabiting New South Wales, the present is perhaps the one best known to the colonists, inasmuch as it is more abundant than any other. It is strictly a brush animal, and consequently only to be found in such localities. All the brushes I have visited from Illawarra to the Hunter, as well as those of the great range which stretches along parallel with the coast, are equally favoured with its presence; I have also received specimens from Moreton Bay. It is not unfrequently found running in the same locality, and even in company, with the *H. Ualabatus*, although the very humid parts of the forest appear to be less suited to it than to that species.

As an article of food, few animals are so valuable, its flesh being tender and well-flavoured, and more like that of the common Hare than that of any other European animal I can compare it with.

The sexes are precisely alike in colour, but the female is smaller than the male.

The species appears to have been first brought to Europe by the French navigators, who applied to it the inappropriate term of *Thetidis* (after their vessel), which, however, it would not be right to alter. Having seen the original specimen in Paris, which is said to have been brought from Port Jackson, I am satisfied of its identity with my own specimens. I mention this circumstance, particularly as the name of *Thetidis* has been placed as a synonym of *Eugenii*, an animal brought home by Peron, and which I now believe to be identical with *H. Derbyanus*.

The *H. Thetidis* must be classed among the smaller *Halmaturi*, being scarcely so large as *H. Derbyanus* or *H. Billardieri*.

Fur rather soft; general colour deep brown; shoulders, sides and back of the neck rusty-red; ears furnished internally with moderately long dirty-white hairs; upper lip dirty-white; chin and throat white; remainder of the under surface dirty-white; arms greyish; hands brown; tarsi and feet uniform dark brown; tail brownish-grey above and dirty-white beneath; on the sides of the tail the hairs are scanty, and the scales covering the tail are very apparent.

	Male.	
	feet.	inches.
Length from the tip of the nose to the extremity of the tail . . .	3	0
„ of tail	1	0
„ „ tarsus and toes, including the nail		5 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ „ arm and hand, including the nails		5
„ „ face from the tip of the nose to the base of the ear . .		4 $\frac{1}{4}$
„ „ ear		2

The accompanying Plates represent the head and shoulders of the size of life, and reduced figures of the entire animal.